

**From:** doom@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 9:03pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I'm writing to express my distress that the proposed Microsoft settlement does not appear to actually do anything to punish past behavior, and very little to see that it does not occur in the future.

My own opinion is that Microsoft must be compelled to allow competition with it's products on even ground, and that this means they should be compelled to publish all technical specifications for how their products inter-operate. For example, a competitor cannot at present hope to succeed with a product that competes with Microsoft Word, because they first must reverse engineer the file format that Word documents are encoded in, and then there's no guarantee that Microsoft will not change the format for future versions of MS Word (as they have many times in the past).

Microsoft has repeated maintained it's monopoly by threatening OEMs with reprisals for supporting other companies software. To make reparations for this, they should be compelled to make it easier for companies to compete with them in the future.

I hope we can all see through Microsoft's attempts at wrapping itself in the flag on this issue. The future of the United States and the US economy does not depend on amnesty for Microsoft's past abuses: if anything, the opposite may be the case.

Sincerely,  
Joseph M. Brenner